

REMARKS

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for a telephone interview granted concerning this application. The telephone interview was on July 12, 2005.

Agreement was reached, subject to searching, that if claims 1 and 5 were amended as they are amended herein, the art rejection over Saito et al (the only prior art discussed) would be avoided.

Also discussed were the possibilities of adding to the end of the claims 1 and 5 (the only claims discussed) that the sintered body and getter material were (separately) removed from the metallic container and the possibility of calling for the material powder "as material being sintered" and the getter material being "for reducing oxygen contained in the material powder", but the Examiner felt the first language was best to describe the invention, especially considering the language in the specification at page 6, lines 19/20.

As now set forth in the claims, the present invention provides a method of manufacturing a sintered body comprising sealing a material powder constituting a sintered body and a getter material in a metallic container, and sintering in a "two-step" procedure, whereby a reduction of oxygen is rapid in the closed metallic container. Saito et al (Saito - U.S. 6,607,693) simply discloses a particular titanium alloy and a method for producing the same where titanium powder is mixed with an element of the IVa or the Va group, where the element in the IVa or the Va group is not a getter material for removing oxygen from the sintered body because it is a component which constitutes the titanium alloy.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 10/810,673

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If the Examiner would like additional remarks as to differences between the present invention and Saito, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned and these can be provided, though Applicants' basic position is as set forth above.

Withdrawal of the rejection over Saito and allowance of all claims is requested.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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